

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVI.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 27TH JULY, 1907.

No. 4

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	49
Leading Articles:—	
Japan and Corea	50
International Law	50
Subsidiary Coinage Losses	50
The Far Eastern Power	52
South China Trade	52
Hongkong Legislative Council	53
Hongkong Sanitary Board	54
Supreme Court	55
Correspondence	
Government and Subsidiary Coinage	56
The September Typhoon	57
A Night Out	57
Kulangau (Amoy) Municipal Council	57
Commercial	58
Shipping	60

DEATHS.

On July 6th, at Shanghai, F. A. RAAD, late Officer, China Merchants' S. N. Co., aged 28 years.
On July 20th, at 7 a.m., at the Government Civil Hospital, BEATRICE TERESA KENNETT, aged 58.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of June 28th arrived, per the s.s. *Arcadia*, on Thursday, the 25th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The official panic in Anhwei, over the assassination of the Governor, has led to such abuses that the officials have been warned against too many indiscriminate arrests.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd., on July 16th, interim dividends were voted of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares and 3¼ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half year ending June 30 last.

The engineers of the Public Work Department are rapidly accomplishing the task of installing the powerful pumping machinery at the Tytam Luk waterworks. The work of placing the boilers is completed, the pumping plant is expected to be in working order shortly, and the Chinese quarters are almost ready.

A stonecutter residing at Shaukiwan appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on the charge of harbouring another man's wife. The defendant, who was represented by Mr. Otto Korg Sing, said he was legally married to the woman, and she was not the wife of another man. From the woman's statement, however, it appears that she was previously married, but her husband had been away from her for sometime. When the defendant sought here, she laid her case before the Joss and he approved of the union, giving her to understand that her former husband was dead. The case was remanded.

A Hangchow dispatch of the 15th instant states that a lady teacher named Ts'in Ching—her surname is not given—of the Mingtao Gir's School of Shaohsing was the other day arrested by the authorities for complicity in the revolutionary schemes of the late Hsu Hsi-lin, and summarily executed.

H. E. Tsên Ch'un-hsuen, Viceroy-Designate of the Two Kwang provinces, has been denounced to the Throne by a Censor named Chên Kuei-ch'ing. The Viceroy has been designated as "Haughty, irascible and failing in the obedience due from a servant of the Crown to his Sovereign." The Censor declares that this has been proved in Viceroy Shum's conduct in refusing to proceed first to take over the Yankwei Viceroyalty, and now the Two Kwang.

Through the death of Mr. Joseph Meuzens, which occurred in the Government Civil Hospital on July 25th, the Harbour Department has lost a capable and zealous officer, and many residents of Hongkong a firm friend. Deceased, who has been ailing for the last six weeks, was strongly advised to go into hospital, but always declined, stating that he would be better in a few days. His health, however, went from bad to worse, and it was only when he was unable to continue his duty longer that he would consent to being removed to the Government Civil Hospital where, after a few days' lingering, he died from internal hæmorrhage. Mr. Meuzens, who was a boarding officer in the Harbour Department, had served eighteen years under the Hongkong Government, and was esteemed by all his fellow workers for his many good qualities. He was a member of the V.R.C., at which Club he was often in attendance, and his presence will be sorely missed by those who used to gather to spend a jolly evening when the day's work was done. Deceased leaves a wife and four children. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon, a large number of friends following them to their last resting place.

At the Police Court on July 24th before Mr. G. N. Orme, a native was charged with fraudulently obtaining a letter from the Post Office; with opening it; and with attempting to obtain a sum of money by false pretences. Evidence showed that the defendant represented himself to be a foki in the Shiu Kee shop of No. 10, Bonham Strand. On the 16th instant he obtained a letter from the Post Office addressed to the firm mentioned, which contained a number of drafts. Extracting one of these he took it to a Chinese bank with the object of obtaining its value, \$4,000. Apparently he knew the custom, for on entering the bank and producing the draft he said:—"See that. To-morrow I will come for the money." On the following day he returned, but was informed that the bank had not sufficient notes on hand, so that he had better call on the next day. After the defendant left, the money was despatched to the Shiu Kee firm, and the master's surprise on receiving it led him to the bank to make inquiries. Such inquiries led to the arrest of the defendant who was conveyed to the Central Station by a district watchman. On appearing before the Court yesterday he pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on the first and third charges, while on the second he was ordered to pay a fine of \$250, the alternative being three months' imprisonment.

The first charge of bribery since the Commission was brought against the keeper of a seamen's boarding house at 37, Connaught Road West, by Sanitary Inspector O'Halloran before Mr. G. N. Orme at the Police Court on the 3rd July. The defendant was charged with offering the Inspector a bribe of \$50 on Monday afternoon. When brought before his Worship he mentioned something about offering the amount instead of paying a fine, but the interpreter's remarks were not audible at the Press table. Mr. A. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the defendant, and asked his Worship to fix a day. His Worship adjourned the case until Friday afternoon bail being fixed in the sum of \$500.

THE TROUBLE IN KOREA.

Daily Press telegrams dated Tokyo, July 22nd, said:—During the public excitement following the abdication of the Emperor, collisions between the people and the Japanese police and soldiery occurred, resulting in loss of life on both sides. The situation is now calmer, but trouble is feared in the provinces.

At the request of the Emperor, Marquis Ito ordered General Hasegawa to guard the palace with troops, which action, it is believed, averted a military plot to occupy the palace and seize the Emperor.

LATER.

Marquis Ito has introduced the foreign consuls to the new Emperor.

The Japanese Government has issued an official report of the abdication, and has notified the Treaty Powers.

Daily Press telegrams dated Tokyo, July 23rd said:—

The situation in Seoul is quiet though ominous. Some "elder statesmen" have been arrested, by order of the new Emperor, and charged with conspiring to secure the murder of the Cabinet Ministers who advised Yi Fin to abdicate. The public is awaiting with interest Marquis Ito's submission of the Japanese demands supposed to have been conveyed by Viscount Hayashi. The most remarkable phase of the situation is the unanimity with which the people and press of Japan rally on the Resident-General's ability to effect a settlement under all the difficulties.

LATER.

The State Council this morning was attended by the Ministers and the Elder Statesmen, when the Korean situation was discussed for three hours.

Telegrams to the Daily Press dated Tokyo, July 25th said:—

The negotiations conducted between Marquis Ito and the Seoul Government are concluded. A new treaty has been drawn up in which Korea agrees to all the Japanese demands. Its terms are that the entire government of the country will be subject to the approval of the Resident General whose office is now to become a permanent one and that Japanese may be appointed to all government posts, including ministerial. The negotiations were unexpectedly smooth and rapid. A detachment of the Kokura division left to-day for Seoul.

LATER.

The Genro Council met this morning. The official text of the treaty was published this afternoon.

JAPAN AND KOREA.

(Daily Press, 22nd July.)

Our Tokyo correspondent has prepared our readers for interesting developments of the Korean situation, which had completely ousted discussion of Japanese relations with America from its prominent position in the papers. Nothing could be of greater importance to the Japanese, save, perhaps, some imitation of the Commodore PERRY incident. The telegram which we published in our Saturday morning "Extra," and the subsequent message which appears with it in this issue, is very interesting indeed, and may have surprised the Japanese as much as it has surprised foreign observers. In view of all the incidents leading up to the present crisis, which have been narrated in our columns and commented upon, the action of the Emperor is perhaps not to be wondered at. His Ministers, having not long ago been selected by Marquis Ito to replace the old, corrupt gang, would naturally be suspected by some people of having acted under the inspiration of the Resident-General, and to those who refuse to believe anything good of the Japanese, our correspondent's last dispatch will be suggestive of the excuse that accuses, as in the shrewd French adage. We do not think there has been anything of the sort, however. The mere abdication of the Sould puppet is hardly likely to be considered in Tokyo as a sufficient safeguard against further intrigues of the brazen sort just come to light. It was characteristically Korean of the Emperor, whose faults had been found out, and who was waiting for no one knew what punishment, to nominate his successor at the moment of resigning. Of course the nominee was the obvious one, and there is nothing much to cavil at as unreasonable in the Emperor resigning "in favour of the Crown Prince," but if the situation be regarded through the eyes of Marquis Ito and his Government, there appears a certain colour of impudence in the assumption that there would be any successor at all. The Japanese might have been considering that very question. The deposition of the Emperor was in the air, and it is possible that the Powers were being diplomatically sounded as to their views—whether a successor of the blood royal, or a Japanese regency. This, we admit, is only a guess, but it would be such an effective solution of the Korean problem, with all its anomalies and possibilities of trouble under the late régime, that we should be surprised if it had not at least entered the mind of the Japanese Government. Moreover, although some Power or Powers might protest formally, or to exact some *quid pro quo*, it is unlikely that the rest of the Governments would be greatly perturbed by such an issue. The pre-eminent importance of Korea to Japan has been admitted, and the result of the war made the arrangement of 1905 a matter to be viewed with surprising equanimity by the Powers. It left future relations very much to be settled between Japan and Korea; and the suicidal mission to the Hague was so flagrantly in defiance of the Convention giving Japan control of Korea's foreign relations that it would seem political bad taste to meddle with Japan's management of the exceedingly awkward situation. With or without a Korean ruler, there will be practically little difference between the status of Japan in Korea, and the status of Russia in Poland, America in the Philippines, or Great Britain in Egypt or even India. People who cannot govern themselves properly lose their title to national independence, and Japan is likely to govern the

Koreans as well as any Power would, and certainly better and more wisely than the present Dynasty has done. Besides, not one of the Imperialistic nations is in a position to throw stones at Japan if she carries matters in the Peninsula with rather a high hand—self interest demands that there shall be no shilly-shallying, and Japan's interests there are not those of mere aggrandizement, but of self-preservation, than which there is scarcely a higher law for nations. Our Tokyo correspondent hints at further steps to a solution being regarded as necessary, and there is just the possibility that he has heard of something on the lines we have been indicating. If our guess turn out to be a fair one, we do not think even Messrs. HULBERT and company can honestly express surprise. There will very likely be on their part an outburst of virtuous indignation, but after all, it may be reflected, they have had their share in helping the Korean Dynasty to its present fall.

INTERNATIONAL LAW.

(Daily Press, July 23rd.)

It is a somewhat common belief amongst many not versed in what is styled International Law, that the Hague Conference sits as a court of justice to decide what is right, and what wrong between nations. Nothing, of course, could be further from its purpose, which is merely to preside generally as a court of custom, and arrange in advance what is the correct thing to do in accordance with international etiquette in certain eventualities: whether for example, it is quite the correct thing to pitch into your enemy before you have sent him a formal note declaring you are at war, or what is the particular way in which you should treat a Geneva Cross, or what kinds of tips a gentlemanly nation should carry on its bullets. In fact the nearest approach in practice to the Convention is the old "Court of Honour" which in the days of Chivalry used to decide on points concerning the knightly duty of a cavalier, but were in no way meant as courts of conscience to decide the rights and wrongs of the various champions. How a knight carried his lance, and how he wore his shield of arms; when he could make an apology without derogation to his knightly honour; whether, when he tendered it, it was sufficient from the same point of view, and whether acting on this finding the Court was in a position to use its influence to bring about a reconciliation between the parties without derogating its own honour and dignity; these, and not mere questions of right or wrong, or matters of conscience as between man and man, were the sole points which the Court according to its constitution was entitled to take into consideration. Nor was there anything wrong or unjust in this, for in those times, and according to the prevailing feeling of the day, which was preeminently a religious one, might was the true arbitrament of wrong or right, for the Almighty was supposed to give the victory to the one in the right. Hence, of course, the right of appeal to combat, and the ordeal, the issues of either of which, as determined by God, took a far higher position than the mere decisions of a human court with all its human weaknesses and liability to error.

When as yet justice was in its infancy and courts of law, under trained judges accustomed to try the issues of right and wrong, were not yet constituted, there was no supreme authority to which these

questions could be referred. Each man was of necessity a law unto himself; and these knightly courts of reference were the first symptoms of a growing want. That the privileged order, each one of whom individually had sworn on his admission to defend the right, should be willing to refer its rules to a tribunal, even of his own choice, was a long step towards the realisation of law and order; and these knightly courts, though absolutely wanting any power of enforcing their decrees, were yet the forerunners of legally constituted Courts of Justice. In not a few particulars, especially in its utter incapacity to enforce its decrees, and in its avowed incapacity to take into consideration mere questions of right or wrong, does this Convention of the Hague resemble the old Courts of Honour, and it can readily be seen that this incapacity arises from the inherent weakness of the system. As long, indeed, as it continues to be the unwritten common law of the world, that each nation must continue to be its own arbiter in matters of right and wrong, so long will it be impossible to bring international questions before any tribunal as abstract matters of justice or injustice; and in our present stage of civilisation it is best that it should be so. Unhappily the points of dispute between nations at present possible are sufficiently numerous to keep the world at large in a state of continual ferment, from which day by day it requires the exercise of the highest discretion to avoid small differences of opinion becoming the forerunners of mighty wars. Were the abstract enquiry of the justice as between man and man of every or any act of aggression to be in addition submitted to the intermeddling of aliens, it would be certain that the subjects of friction would be vastly increased in number as well as in virulence. As a matter of national existence Japan found it necessary some three or four years ago to occupy Korea. Who is to judge of the correctness of the judgment except Japan herself? Later on for the same reason she found it necessary to stay there. Who is to supersede her judgment? It may be wrong; all human judgments are liable to error, but would it be better if half a dozen nations, each accustomed to look upon the affair in a different light, were to interfere? Would not the most likely conclusion of such a course be a general fall-to-all round?

On the whole the best way to preserve peace under such conditions as prevail is for each nation to mind its own business. The acknowledgment is doubtless rather derogatory to our civilisation; but as practical statesmen we must accept the position, and wait till some signs of a new dispensation appear on the horizon before agitating for a new heaven and a new earth to relieve our grievances.

SUBSIDIARY COINAGE LOSSES.

(Daily Press, 24th July.)

Yesterday the members of the Legislative Council had submitted to them the correspondence on the subject of Hongkong and Cantonese subsidiary coins. Some of it has already been published, but the subject is of such urgent and vital interest that the public will probably bear with a little repetition rather than miss any item of information bearing upon it. The first item of the correspondence is a "confidential" letter dated Government House, July 23rd, 1906, addressed by Sir MATTHEW NATHAN as Governor to the Earl of ELGIN as Secretary of State for the Colonies. It follows previous correspondence on the subject of the disposal of the subsidiary

oin in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN had been advised about April 1906 to take no step in the direction of disposing of this coin "until the result of the next selling season had been ascertained." By May 15th the discount had gone up to over four per cent. (from one-half and one per cent.), and the Bank Manager reported that prospects were not improving. Owing to damaged crops, and the substitution in the two Kwang provinces of dollars for Chinese subsidiary, there was to be "no chance of Hongkong subsidiary coins being required in those provinces in the near future." India, reported to be buying silver, refused to buy any of this bullion from Hongkong, so on June 21st the s.s. *Preussen* took \$3,398,000 worth to London, leaving only \$344,022 in the hands of the Government, and \$76,920 of this was in copper coins. The consignment to London consisted of twenty and ten-cent pieces only. We may point out at this stage the indication that the local Government was not particularly reluctant to send more of our subsidiary coins into the two Kwang, if the Chinese wanted them. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN alluded to the existence of "some dissatisfaction in the Colony," and remarked that "various wild suggestions" were put forward for the rehabilitation of the local currency. In this connection he submitted a copy of the Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE's suggestions to the Chamber of Commerce, which have already been made public, and received a very fair share of public approval, although the Chamber of Commerce received them unsympathetically, or, as Sir MATTHEW NATHAN expressed it, they "dealt discreetly with the suggestions." The Governor noted that "the practical effect of making Hongkong subsidiary coin unlimited legal tender would be to debase the currency, and to lower the monetary standard of value from the intrinsic value of the dollar to that of the subsidiary coin." Whether this is a theorem or only a theory, it is not for us to say. The public is at the mercy of the experts, as Sir MATTHEW NATHAN doubtless was; we fancy it would take a lot of demonstrating. In an accompanying footnote, Sir MATTHEW NATHAN was on surer ground; we can admit that "the redemption of Hongkong subsidiary coin at par would be an extremely costly operation," although there are some who think it need not necessarily "prove a heavy burden on present taxpayers." However, we have been recently favoured with correspondence from gentlemen who strongly support Sir MATTHEW's views as now published, and we have considerable respect for their opinions. Redemption at par, the letter also noted, would "benefit principally Chinese money changers in China and elsewhere." The extent of that benefit depends, of course, upon how much of the local coinage remains in Chinese circulation. The replies to Mr. OSBORNE in the Legislative Council were based upon advice received from the managers of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Chartered Bank, and the Mercantile Bank. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN further did what he could to bring about the restriction of the Cantonese output of subsidiary coins, without, he admits, very apparent results. One statement made by Sir MATTHEW NATHAN to Lord ELGIN appears to indicate the existence of a popular error. He wrote:

"I may here mention that the millesimal fineness of the Chinese coins is practically the same as ours, the mean result of analyses of 23 of these coins made by two different analysts being to show the presence of 800.08 parts of silver in 1,000 parts of metal, the fineness of Hongkong coins as laid down by proclamation

being 800. The millesimal fineness of the dollar being 900, there seems no reason why both the Hongkong and Chinese subsidiary coins should not fall to a discount of 10 per cent. At present the discount on the former is 6½ to 6¾ per cent. and on the latter 7½ to 7¾ per cent."

Assuming that Hongkong suspends further production,—a policy it has since promised,—and that China's covenanted provision of a uniform national coinage is indefinitely postponed,—an assumption that we fear is only too well warranted—Sir MATTHEW NATHAN prognosticated three things as possible. We quote them in full.

(i) The Canton mint may continue issuing new subsidiary coins of the present millesimal fineness. In this case the will fall to and remain at a 10 per cent. discount to the impoverishment of the people in the Kwang Provinces whose hoardings consisting of, and earnings paid in, these coins will have lost a tenth of their value. The decrease in buying power of these people will continue injurious to affect the trade of Hongkong. The Hongkong subsidiary coins will remain at a slightly less discount in Hongkong, where the non acceptance of the Chinese coins by the Government and banks make these of slightly less value in the Colony. This difference will increase, if mercantile firms follow the example that has been set by the Government and some of themselves in declining to receive the Chinese coins. There will also be tendency for the Hongkong coins to return to the Colony.

(ii) The Canton mints may cease issuing subsidiary coins. Those they have already issued and with them the Hongkong coins would tend gradually to recover their former dollar value as absorption took place and they became a subsidiary rather than a main currency.

(iii) The Canton mint may issue subsidiary coins of lower millesimal fineness than the present ones. This would result in a further impoverishment of the Kwang Provinces for the temporary advantage of the Canton Treasury. The new coins, which, to secure their acceptance, would have the same appearance as the old, would drag the value of the latter down with them. The Hongkong coins with a value intermediate between that of the dollar and the Chinese coins would tend partly to disappear from circulation in China by being melted down to form the new issue as dollars are now being melted down to form the present issues, and partly to constitute a third standard of value for commodities in the same way as commodities are now beginning to have two prices according to whether payments for them are made in dollars or subsidiary coins. It would be as impossible then to prevent the new issue from being generally current in Hongkong as it is now to prevent the present issues being used in the majority of private transactions, and even greater confusion and paralyzation of trade than exist at the present time would ensue.

Lord ELGIN asked Sir MATTHEW NATHAN to report on the matter of a letter from the Electric Traction Company of Hongkong Ltd. [street trams]. The Secretary of that company, writing from London E.C. on June 19th 1906, had asked the Secretary for the Colonies to urge some action upon the Hongkong Government. The Train Company's Directors held the opinion we held, and hold, that "it is far from desirable that British coins should be at a discount in a British colony," especially seeing that the allegation is that this discount is due to a decreased Chinese demand for them. It seems fairly obvious that if the Chinese coins are as nearly pure as Hongkong coins, it cannot at the same time be true that our coins are melted and re-minted by the Chinese, and that if Sir MATTHEW NATHAN's statement already quoted be correct, the different rates of discount must be arbitrary—a sort of squeeze. In 1905 the Street Tram Company claims to have lost £486 in this way, or nearly two per cent. of its year's takings. For the four months April 30th, 1906, the discount had risen to nearly four per cent. of the takings. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN recommended that the same reply

be made to them as was made to the Star Ferry Company; and he again denied that Hongkong coins were of greater intrinsic value than the Cantonese coins. Hongkong coins, he said, had of late "been returning to the Colony in greater numbers than the banks can put on the market," and it was dollars that the Chinese were melting and re-minting. This looks as if the Bank were trying to reduce the discount on Hongkong coins by withholding them from circulation; and it seems clear that if the Hongkong public would boycott (refuse to accept) the Chinese coins, the discount would disappear altogether. But as we have previously mentioned, many people have tried this and dismally failed. We must have small change of some sort, as all transactions cannot be done on the chit and monthly settlement system. Already there is much inconvenience owing to the comparative rarity of our own subsidiary, and there must be many people who on receiving a small Hongkong coin segregate it and save it for future use at the Post Office, which accepts no other kind. The trams and ferries simply dare not refuse the Cantonese coins. If they did, many of us would have to walk or swim, or take rickshas and sampans. Our correspondent "Chopped Dollar" recently reminded us that the Hongkong Government had never deliberately undertaken to supply China with subsidiary currency, and suggested that the coins it issued went inland against its will. Of course we never intended to imply that it did deliberately undertake such a contract, but we hesitate to believe that it was reluctant to accept the profits incidental to the exodus. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN makes mention of "the profits the Colony has made from furnishing the Kwang Provinces with token coins," and it is those profits which we have submitted ought to be set against the loss of the "extremely costly operation" which we (and the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE) recommended. When one rashly incurs heavy debts, it is always a costly operation to get "square." The analogy, we submit, is by no means unfair. The Government prepared the problem now awaiting solution. We did not. If the task of solving it presents difficulties, we cannot help it.

Yet on the point we have made so much of, about the scarcity of local coins, it is only fair to say that Sir MATTHEW NATHAN has a good comment. The public, he points out, can obtain as much Hongkong subsidiary coinage at the bank as they desire. Suppose the public acts on this, no doubt in time the alien coinage will be reduced, but what will be the immediate result? Will it not mean a speedy and further increase of the discount, and more losses? However, the following paragraph from Sir MATTHEW's despatch appears to greatly weaken the position, and to show that the recommendations to the public are admittedly counsels of perfection. We are advised to attempt something impracticable, to roll the stone of Sisyphus, for what the Government cannot attempt the public can hardly do, and for similar reasons. Here is the fatal paragraph:

Of the two proposals of the Board the first, namely, that the Chinese coinage should be made illegal and abolished, is not practicable. Chinese coins are not legal tender in Hongkong, and it is open to everyone to refuse to accept them but to make it punishable by law to possess such coins or to offer or accept payments in them would fill the jails of the Colony and at the same time would deal a serious if not mortal blow to the large traffic and petty trade which goes on between Hongkong and Canton. As Your Lordship is doubtless aware some 4,000 people daily come and go between the two places. For currency

purposes Hongkong is and must remain an integral portion of the Chinese Empire and it is no more possible to exclude Chinese subsidiary coins from the Colony than it is to exclude dollars and establish a gold currency there.

We call special attention to the "integral portion" of it. Granting that position, it seems almost just to suggest that in that case a war on China, to force her to reform her currency as promised, would be a holy war, a righteous war.

In a "confidential" letter to Lord ELGIN, dated April 27th of this year, the Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY says the time has arrived for the Government to take steps. The Government, as well as merchants, is losing. He estimates that there are twenty million dollars worth of Hongkong coins to redeem, still in circulation, or eighteen millions more than we want. At present the Government is paying the Bank about \$3,000 a month at discount, and he proposes that in future all subsidiary paid to Government be retained and sent to the Crown Agents for disposal. This would mean a loss of about \$40,000 per annum, partly set off by the saving of the \$86,000 paid to the Bank. The Colonial Office has telegraphed its approval.

THE FAR EASTERN POWER.

(Daily Press, 25th July).

Since the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese war, comparatively little attention has been directed to the effects which have been produced by the outcome of that struggle, in the relative positions of the Powers in the Far East. There can, however, be no doubt that the modifications which have been brought about will be as far-reaching as they are important. The effect of the Japanese successes has been to change the centre of diplomatic influence in regard to all Far Eastern questions, that is to say speaking generally, with respect to China Japan and the Korea. It is becoming daily more evident that Japan is destined to become the dominating influence in all matters of foreign relationship not only with herself, but also to a great extent with China. So far as can be judged by existing circumstances, Japan will take very much the position which for many years was held by Great Britain; but which, from a variety of causes is now no longer retained by the latter. Time was when the voice of the British Minister either at Peking or at Yeddo was sufficient if not actually to decide, at least largely to influence the ultimate decision in most questions that arose. The subjects were discussed by the whole of the Foreign Ministers but the British Minister took the lead and had generally sufficient influence both with his colleagues and with the Chinese or Japanese Authorities to cause the decision of any matter in issue to be in accordance with his views. This influence has now largely declined, and that of Russia, which seemed at one time likely to supply its place has received a rude shock from her failure in the recent war. So far as Great Britain is concerned, she was not merely inclined to let matters drift, as is too frequently her policy in these parts, but became indisposed to go on pushing the interests of foreign nations generally with no special advantage to herself individually. The course of events has at this juncture brought Japan to the fore, and everything points to that country being now the dominant force in all Far Eastern matters; and to her voice being likely to be almost final in all important international questions that may arise.

This change may in some ways be cause of some feelings of regret, as it cannot be

denied that it means a falling off in the prestige of European nations. At the same time, it is manifest that it is the more natural state of things that such influence should be exercised by a nation situated in the centre of the countries concerned, and that this influence is likely to be exercised with much greater effect not only on that account, but also because it is less liable to be weakened by the jealousies between foreign Powers, which have been so adroitly worked upon by the Chinese Authorities. So far as China is concerned, it may be safely assumed that the interests of Japan will for many years to come be identical with those of foreign nations; and there seems no reason to doubt that, as regards herself and Korea, Japan will be ready to adopt a policy in conformity with the interests of foreign nations and in fact will continue to identify herself with their views. Provided that this is the case, it is far more satisfactory for foreign nations to allow Japan to make the running in the reforms which it is hoped to introduce both in China and Korea. The chief end that foreign nations desire to obtain is that both those countries should be in a position such as will tend to the maintenance of peace and to the advancement of legitimate trading interests, and these objects are those which Japan herself has in view. So far she is identified with foreign nations and may in this respect be regarded as one of them herself. At present she is disposed to make common cause with them in such trading and other advantages as she can obtain, and so long as this is her policy it is manifestly to the advantage of foreign nations to accept the situation and to obtain the benefit of so useful a co-operator. At the present time she exercises a considerable influence in China in the direction of reform, and is likely to be able to induce the Chinese to come into line with other nations in a way which is impossible for Europeans, whose knowledge of Chinese methods and ideas is much more limited. The Chinese it is true do not like Japan; but they are none the less willing to gain any material advantages that may be attainable from so useful a teacher; and it is not beyond the bounds of hope that China may by degrees learn the means of improving her internal administration from a nation who has succeeded so well in reforming her own.

SOUTH CHINA TRADE.

(Daily Press, 26th July).

The fourth volume of part number two of the I. M. C. port trade statistics and reports covers the twelve southern coast ports from Santuao to Pakhoi. Santuao, as a feeder of the Foochow tea market, does not afford much scope for comment, but the Acting Commissioner, Mr. F. W. CAREY, says "there is certainly a good opening here for a foreign firm with plenty of energy and a little capital." At any tide, steamers can get in unpiloted, and he is assured that a saving of three dollars a picul equal to a half-penny per pound could be effected by shipping tea direct instead of through Foochow. There is a steadily growing production and export. There were exported in 1906 Tls. 2,237,880 worth of local produce, and only Tls. 38,997 worth of foreign goods were imported.

The Commissioner classed the year's trade as normal, though it shows a decreased net value. There seems to have been a tendency to overstock imports. Mr. G. F. MONTGOMERY's most interesting note deals with postal developments. The Imperial Post is so popular that the provincial courier service, "which is at

least 3,000 years old," and costs nearly thirty thousand taels a year, has been named for abolition. An "express delivery" service is doing well locally, the convenience of "C. O. D." being fully appreciated. The net value of the port's trade dropped from Tls. 17,447,135 in 1905 to Tls. 16,693,583. Tea exported was about 117,000 piculs, and re-exported 115,000.

Mr. Cecil A. V. BOWRA, the Amoy Commissioner, also has nothing startling to report; the trade "continued its gently downward course," the net value dropping from Tls. 18,567,794 in 1905 to Tls. 17,353,339. "The Amoy district," he writes, "has almost ceased to be a place of production. With the exception of the output of humanity, the exports are quite of a trifling description." And the import, mainly represent the requirements of the retired traders who have settled down there. "The story of Amoy as the entrepôt for Formosa tea has entered on its last chapter," but this notwithstanding, the foreign population of Kulangsu goes on growing, and houses are in unceasing demand on that pretty and well governed island.

Swatow merchants grumbled much about the year's business, but Mr. FRANK SMITH, Acting Commissioner, reports it as satisfactory from a Customs point of view. The yarn trade seems to have been the worst. The net value of this port's trade decreases rapidly, from forty-nine million taels in 1904 and forty-seven in 1905 to forty-three millions last year.

Canton advances. Not high exchange, spring floods, nor typhoons could prevent a slight increase in revenue and an increase of nearly two million taels in the net value of the trade. What it would be if the railway scheme were furthered instead of hindered, Mr. F. J. MAYERS, as Acting Commissioner, can only hint. It is probable, he admits, that to some extent the increased revenue shown in his tables has benefited at the expense of the Native Customs collection. Not only were many of the trading junks wiped out by the typhoons, but steamers have been coming more into favour, owing to their increased security and punctuality. The slight decrease of imports may be only apparent, as the classification is by value, not quantity, and exchange makes a difference. Dearer silk helps to account for the higher export figures. Those who are interested in the rival claims of Hongkong and London, for the record tonnage, may be interested by a remark in this report, showing that Hongkong does not make the most of its statistics. "In consequence of certain openings having been made in the after part of the 'tween decks of some of the river steamers, for the purpose of ventilation, and in no way affecting their cargo-carrying capacity—for river steamers carry the bulk of their cargo on the 'tween deck,—the tonnage measurements of five vessels have been reduced by 3,298 tons. This naturally involves a very great reduction in the tonnage figures."

The net value of Canton's trade for last year was Tls. 94,108,696. This, while better than 1905, is not so good as in 1904, by over two millions.

The Kowloon Acting Commissioner Mr. W. R. M'D. PARR, refers at length to exchange fluctuations and dear silver. In addition to Indian purchases, he notes that Manchuria and Korea have been absorbing large sums, and China's extensive coining operations forced up the price, silver being affected less by industrial requirements than by monetary demands. The net value, Tls. 41,971,859, shows a

consistent decrease. Mr. PARR makes one remark sufficiently suggestive to quote. "Arms smuggling from Hongkong, Macao, and Kwang-chow-wan has been very rife for some years past, and it seems somewhat of a retribution that the insecurity now resulting from this nefarious trade should affect indirectly foreign commerce."

Lappa returns by Mr. E. V. BRENNAN showed a distinct falling away, owing probably to the diversion of the course of trade to the Kwang-chow-wan—Macao route. The reduction in net value appears to be at the rate of about one million taels per annum. Last year the net value of Lappa trade was Tls. 15,383,943. At Kongmoon it was Tls. 3,732,207, a slight increase. Mr. G. MOULK, the Acting Commissioner seems to think the stories of piracy were exaggerated, and he notes the difficulties of dealing with such pirates as do exist. More interesting is the contribution of Mr. K. H. VON LINDHOLM, the Acting Commissioner at Samshui. He refers to 1906 as a year of floods, scarcity, piracies, and typhoons.

Opinions are often expressed in respect to the West River trade, indicating feelings of disappointment with the past and a somewhat despondent view concerning the future. The disappointed feeling may be due to the fact that more was anticipated than one reasonably had a right to expect. One is justified in such a view when one has often heard and still occasionally hears people speaking about the West River and the Yangtze at the same time. How misleading such a view is will easily be seen when it is considered that the Yangtze, as far as navigation is concerned, stretches from the rich and fertile Kiangsu on the sea through many provinces well into Szechwan, perhaps China's most fertile and richest province; while similarly, the West River only traverses Kwangtung and Kwangsi. Though the delta of the former is undeniably fertile and well cultivated, it is at the same time overpopulated and subject to floods, and cannot, even with good crops, maintain its population, but is dependent on foodstuff from outside; while as regards the mountainous Kwangsi it has hitherto—whatever it may develop into in the future, when its mineral riches are taken in hand—been best known for scarcity and rebellions. But if the expectations in the past were, perhaps, too optimistic, the present despondent view for the future has no real justification. The opening of Nanning may give rise to somewhat more trade, and this will also be the case when the mines in Kwangsi are opened; and, what is more important, the resources already at hand have not been exhausted. The North River still remains practically a *terra incognita* to the foreign merchant, and although the trade probably would not be very considerable, and the navigation for launches and their tows is difficult at certain times of the year, Szewui for instance, can always be reached. The geographical position of Samshui fits it in an exceptional degree as a distributing centre for certain foreign goods as, for instance, kerosene oil and cotton piece goods and yarn, which could be stored here and subsequently sent into the interior by native boats towed by launches and covered by transit passes. In order that the West River trade become more of a success, it is, however, essential that it should follow its natural course without being interfered with or hampered by any other considerations, and its natural course is not—entailing transshipment—*via* Canton, to which it, however, is linked by old traditions and associations difficult to disregard, but direct to and from Hongkong, i.e., the place where the importing steamer arrives from, and the exporting vessel departs for, abroad. Native goods, such as nankeens, paper, and cotton cord, are, as mentioned in previous reports, shipped to Hongkong and Macao, and then, having become "foreign" goods and entitled to transit pass, brought back and sent into the interior under transit pass. The distance these goods have to travel, i.e., the number of barriers and Hkin stations they have to pass before reaching their ultimate destination,

must be very considerable, otherwise merchants would hesitate before paying one full export and one and a half import duty besides the freight.

He affirms that piracy was no more prevalent than in other years, notwithstanding the prominence given to it; and that the foreign press were not quite fair to the Chinese officials, who did all that could be done. In these parts piracy for ages has been looked on in much the same light in which smuggling was regarded by the coast populations in Europe a hundred years ago, and all the inhabitants of a village as a rule are not only friends but also relations, and everybody—from the old woman picking cotton on the river bank to the naked urchin riding a water buffalo on the embankment—inform, help, and abet the culprits.

At Wuchow, says the Acting Commissioner, Mr. C. E. TANANT, bad weather means bad trade, and the year 1906 was a bad one. The American boycott seems to have been more effective there than elsewhere. "The most important feature of the year was the appearance of a steamer running in competition with the pooled West River companies. The result was a lowering of freights, to the great benefit of trade generally." The net value of the trade, Tls. 10,554,816, was not sufficiently decreased to illustrate the badness of the year's business. At Kiungchow, until the typhoon of September, things generally had been keeping fair pace with the record year of 1905, but that storm, says Mr. CHAS. KLIENE, Assistant-in-Charge, brought the trade of the port to a deadlock, for Hongkong is its chief entrepôt. After a month's waiting, however, so much bustle was imported into the last two and a half months of the year that the record of 1905 was surpassed. The island port thus showed its capabilities and possibilities. The lichee and pineapple cannery failed owing purely to careless management. "An era of unprecedented progress seems to be dawning" in Hainan. The net value of the trade was Tls. 6,737,000.

Pakhoi has been "a great disappointment." Tonkin has taken away its business, and unless the railways come to revive it, it seems likely to dwindle to an unimportant status, says Mr. J. H. LOWRY, the Assistant-in-Charge. The net value of its trade shows a persistent decline, from Tls. 3,013,256 in 1904, and Tls. 2,824,423 in 1905, to Tls. 2,478,862 in 1906. In the foregoing paragraphs we have been able to do no more than skim the mass of information contained in this volume, which to those interested in greater detail should be cheap at two dollars.

The Police have been unable to ascertain the causes of the fire which occurred in the godowns of Messrs. Barretto and Co. in Wyndham Street on Tuesday evening, but believe that the outbreak was due to the fusing of an electric wire in the office. Shortly after six o'clock when the godown was locked everything appeared to be in order, and it was not until nine o'clock that the fire had gained sufficient hold to attract attention. Then the flames were bursting through the doors and mounting high in air, greatly to the alarm of residents above who were about to move out their furniture until assured by Inspector Warnock that they were in no immediate danger. Inspection of the premises yesterday morning showed that No. 3 godown was gutted, that No. 2 was damaged by water, and that No. 4 was damaged by fire and water. The stock in hand at the time was considerably more than the amount on which insurance had been effected, and the loss is estimated at \$15,000. There is stock insured with the South British Insurance Co., of which Messrs. S. J. David and Co. are agents to the extent of \$55,000.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 23rd instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Mr. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. McE. MESSER (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Captain-Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency, the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 31 to 32, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by Command of H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 5), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following papers: The report of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the year April 1st, 1906 to March 31st, 1907; the Correspondence on the subject of Hongkong Subsidiary Coins; and the Despatch from the Secretary of State with regard to the report of the Committee of Inquiry in connection with the typhoon of September 18th, 1906.

INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance relating to Life Fire and Marine Insurance Companies. In doing so he said:—In consequence of certain considerations which have gone forward, I propose to drop at present the provisions in this Ordinance relating to Fire and Marine Insurance Companies. These parts of the Bill may be proceeded with later or otherwise, as may seem expedient. The portion of the Bill relating to life insurance follows closely the provisions of the Life Insurance Acts of England and the security is similar to that required to be given under the Imperial Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council resolved itself into committee, and considered the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through committee with certain amendments, and passed its second reading.

FACILITIES FOR A FOREIGN COMPANY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance for giving to a Foreign Company called the Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij certain facilities for carrying on its business in the Colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Council then resolved itself into a committee of the whole Council, and the Bill was considered clause by clause.

On Council resuming, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through committee without amendment, and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time, passed, and became law.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until Friday at 2.45 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held—the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:—

SANITARY AND OTHER VOTES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to revoke a sum of one thousand one hundred and forty-five Dollars (\$1,145) in aid of the vote, Sanitary Department, Other Charges, Typhoon Expenses.

POLICE AND PRISON DEPARTMENTS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, A.—Police, Other Charges, for the following items:—

Secret Service... .. \$ 700
Subsistence of Prisoners... .. 300

\$1,000

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on July 23rd at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, (Registrar-General), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

CEMETERY BYELAWS.

The report of the committee on Cemetery Byelaws was submitted. It recommended that the present byelaws be withdrawn, and that fresh ones be substituted. The proposed byelaws provided that cemeteries other than Chinese shall be open to inspection by any member of the Board, or by any officer of the Sanitary Department who may be directed to make such inspection. They also provided that the graves be numbered, that a register be kept, and that each grave be dug to a depth of at least six feet with the exception of the graves of children under ten years of age. Except as regards the corpses of children under ten years of age only one corpse shall be placed in one grave. The new byelaws also contained provisions that the inter-space between any two graves shall be at least eighteen inches, that graves shall be properly covered, and that no graves may be re-opened without the written permission of the Medical Officer of Health. The fees proposed were: for each grave of twelve superficial feet, ground fee, \$10; grave digging, \$1; exhumation, \$5. The exceptions are: children under ten years of age, ground fee, \$5; grave digging, \$1; second burial in the same grave, \$3; pauper interment free. Monuments over graves or inclosures of surface not occupying more than 24 superficial feet, free. Byelaws regarding Chinese cemeteries were also given.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—The register mentioned in paragraph 3 of the proposed byelaws should be open to inspection by the public.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—These byelaws make no provision for a cemetery of the nature proposed to be opened at Aplichau, nor of the cemetery Mr. Ng Li-hing wished to present to the Fokinese community in New Kowloon.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Paragraph 13. Why should the Chinese register be deposited at or near the cemeteries for two years? The Chinese sextons or coolies cannot be relied upon in keeping such register. I suggest that original copies should be deposited in the office of the Board and the duplicate copies at the cemeteries. The following points are worthy of consideration:—(1) Standing orders be drawn up in English and Chinese for the guidance of Chinese sextons or coolies; (2) A copy of the byelaws in English and Chinese be posted up at the entrance to each cemetery for the information of the public; (3) The various sections of the cemeteries to be clearly marked out with boundary stones.

The PRESIDENT thought it would be advisable to deal with the byelaws one by one. The point raised by Mr. Lau Chu-pak scarcely

concerned the byelaws. The Board formed the byelaws.

In considering the byelaws *seriatim* it was decided that the cemeteries be open to the inspection of the public, but after a discussion on the initiative of Mr. Hooper, no amendment was made on the recommended depth of grave.

With reference to Chinese graves, the VICE PRESIDENT asked why in the non-Chinese cemeteries a fee of \$10 should be paid for a grave of 12 superficial feet and in the Chinese cemeteries a fee of \$2 only should be paid for 24 feet.

Mr. HOOPER thought the reason was that Chinese coffins occupied a greater space.

The question of fees was referred back to the committee.

CHANGEABLE REGULATIONS.

Correspondence was submitted relative to latrines in back yards.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—I am in favour of latrines being allowed in back yards, provided they are kept clean and in a sanitary condition. Professor Simpson was very strong on this point in his recommendation to the Secretary of State, and I consider this present crusade against latrines is most unjustifiable.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Where there is a yard latrines should be allowed. In places of business some sort of latrines must be provided.

The PRESIDENT—It is necessary for the Board to come to a decision in this matter as to whether they are going to allow latrines in back yards or not.

Mr. HOOPER—In accordance with my minute I am in favour of latrines being allowed in back yards provided they are sanitary. Professor Simpson, as I stated last week, made a very strong point of that in his report to the Secretary of State, and said he would make it compulsory that in every house erected hereafter there should be a latrine in every backyard, or in every block of houses. He says, "There is also the very important duty of preventing what is actually even now taking place, of insanitary areas springing up in the town; and of blocks of buildings being erected to contain hundreds of inmates without the owner of the buildings being obliged to provide for each house a latrine in the back yard, and for every block a public latrine with a proportional number of seats to the number of inmates the block is likely to contain." Well, Sir, we are always having brought to our notice the petition to the Secretary of State for experts to come out. They came out, and the public wanted to sit on them, but in the present case the boot is on the other leg. Here the public are wishing to give effect to the recommendations of the expert while the Government departments apparently are not. I am sure we are all actuated by the same desire, that is, to do the best we can for the Colony taking all the circumstances into consideration. We had an application before us within the last two or three meetings for permission to reconstruct latrines in the back yards of Nos. 228 to 244 Des Voeux Road. Notice had been served on the owner to remove the existing latrines. He wrote to the Board and asked for permission to reconstruct them, but the Board refused. Now, Sir, these latrines were erected under the superintendence of an architect in the Colony, and on August 1st, 1901, so it is not ancient history, a permit was received from the Director of Public Works to construct the latrines in the houses in accordance with a plan deposited with the Public Works Department, and that is the plan and here are the latrines (produces plan), and to-day we call upon the owner to take them down in face of Professor Simpson's recommendation. This application has been dealt with, but I allude to it to-day because I will certainly move that the motion be rescinded and that the Board allow the latrines to remain. When the architect went to inspect the latrines he found them too small so that they did not comply with the Ordinance of to-day, and it was for permission to make them comply and enlarge them that he wrote to the Board. His application has been refused and he has been told to remove them because they obstruct the back yard, and to make them longer would further obstruct it. I would ask whether that is a consistent policy? To ask the owner to pull these things down and go some distance away is a very great hardship. I could refer to dozens of other cases, but I am going on

to one of a different sort. A letter was received by me on the 13th of this month with regard to an application made by the owner of No. 253, Des Voeux Road Central, which also showed that an officer of the Board recommended that a latrine be allowed to remain. I may take it that that latrine is sanitary, otherwise the officer who recommended the sanction of it would not be doing his duty. Then, if it is sanitary, why should the owner be called upon to make a plan of that latrine, which cost \$25?

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—More!

Mr. HOOPER—It was suggested by a member of the Government that a sketch would do. I would like to know who is to make a sketch. I must employ an architect and that would cost \$25 for something which this Board says is perfectly sanitary, and ask the Governor-in-Council to approve of. It is simply imposing a tax on property to ask the owner to procure a plan of a latrine. The officer of this Board who examined it must surely have taken the dimensions of the latrine, and his word would be good enough for the length, breadth and height. In these circumstances I move that all latrines be allowed if found to be sanitary and clean.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. I think in shops with yards of about eight feet latrines should be allowed to remain.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Cannot the Medical Officer give us the history of this thing? I don't understand why all these applications are coming up now.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Many of them have been recently erected, the number having increased since yards have been provided. With regard to Mr. Hooper's remark about a crusade, there has been none to my knowledge. Whenever a case comes before me I inspect the yard, and if it is large enough, recommend that a latrine be allowed. The inspectors watch the reports of Board meetings very carefully to see what goes on, and they may have seen that permits are required for latrines. They may ask a tenant to produce his permit, and if he has not one they report in the usual course. I think it is going a little bit too far to say that a yard less than twelve or fourteen feet in area should have a latrine. It would be more satisfactory to the Sanitary staff and myself if a general rule was laid down as to what yards can have a latrine and what can not. As far as new buildings are concerned, everyone is provided with a latrine. I never knew that Professor Simpson recommended them in existing houses, because there is no room for them.

Mr. HOOPER—I think you misunderstood me. I was not alluding to the fact that Professor Simpson advocated that latrines should be put up in the yards of existing buildings but I say that those put up prior to Professor Simpson's visit he never intended to be taken down.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Once a plan has been sent in, and passed, no interference with it is allowed. Most of these we are dealing with are latrines put up without any notice, and only discovered in the ordinary house to house visitation by the inspectors.

Mr. HOOPER—Quite so, but how is it they have just been discovered? You say latrines have been put up without any plans; surely the Building Authority did not know it because it is an offence he has to take cognizance of. We have only got a small Board to-day, two official and two unofficial members present, therefore I would suggest that the matter stand over till the next meeting.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think we are quite capable of dealing with it.

It was decided that no action be taken in regard to latrines which had been erected in back yards having an area of 80 square feet, or in cases where permits could be produced or records of the Building Authority to show that authority was granted to erect the latrines.

THE CITY'S REFUSE.

The disposal of the refuse of the City during unfavourable weather was again brought under the notice of the Board. On July 2nd Messrs. Wilks and Jack wrote to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board:—

"We find this morning, owing to bad weather, the junks were unable to be towed to be dis-

charged at the usual dumping ground and had to proceed to the old ground at Chin Wan. We would thank you to give instruction to your officer in charge in the event of a similar condition of weather prevailing, as to the most suitable place to discharge."

Dr. CLARK minuted:—In the event of bad weather, I think the best place to dump the refuse would be in the shallow water of Gin-drinkers Bay, but I hope this will be used as seldom as possible, as refuse is bound to come back into the harbour if it is dumped in this locality.

The application was granted.

RATS.

The rat returns showed that in 1905, from January to July, 18,609 rats were caught of which 937 were found to be infected with plague—roughly about five per cent. of the rats caught were infected. In the first seven months of 1906 the total number caught was 17,257 and 673 were infected—just under four per cent. During the present year 19,552 rats have been caught, but only 20 were discovered to be suffering with plague—about 102 per cent. The difference shown during the past three years is a remarkable one, and there can be no doubt, but that the wholesale destruction of rats has had a beneficial effect upon the Colony. The figures for the past fortnight are:—Victoria, 843 caught, 3 plague infected; Kowloon, 472 caught, none infected.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 22nd July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

A SPECIAL CASE.

A special case was set down for hearing in which Lau Yeong Wood and Lam Choy were the plaintiffs and the Standard Oil Company of New York the defendants. The dispute concerned the reclamation at Laichikok with the building of a seawall there, it having been alleged by the Standard Oil Company that the plaintiffs did not proceed with the work with the required expedition and they, in consequence, took the work out of plaintiffs' hands.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Hastings, appeared for the plaintiffs, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Atkinson, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared for the defendants.

The special case was as follows:—

For the purpose of the argument of this special case it is assumed (1) that the plaintiffs by a contract in writing dated April 3, 1905, and made between the plaintiffs and the defendants (a copy of which together with the specifications and conditions therewith incorporated is exhibited, and the declaration of the plaintiff Lau Yeong Wo filed in this action on March 8, 1907) agreed to construct certain works; (2) that the plaintiffs in pursuance of the said contract entered on the site and did certain work and remained on the site until January 23, 1907; (3) that on January 25, 1907, the said works were not completed; (4) that on January 18, 1907, Christopher Boswood Thomas, assistant to Mr. William Danby, the engineer named in the said contract, acting for and on behalf of the defendants gave the plaintiff a notice of that date, a copy of which is hereunto annexed. (Mr. Thomas gave plaintiffs notice that unless they employed not less than 250 men continually on the work from that date and proceeded with all proper expedition he would on January 25th take the works wholly out of their hands and, if necessary, expel plaintiffs and their workmen from the works.)

(5) That the plaintiffs did not comply with the terms of the said notice and on January 25, 1907, the said C. B. Thomas, acting for and on behalf of the defendants, gave the notice of that date, a copy of which is hereunto annexed.

(Mr. Thomas ordered plaintiffs to suspend work as the principals were about to enter upon, and take possession of, the site and works and all plant and material thereon. Mr. Thomas pointed out that such a course would not affect any of the obligations, liabilities

and responsibilities incurred by plaintiff by entering into the contract.)

(6) That on January 25, 1907, the said contract was taken out of the plaintiffs' hands by the defendants and the defendants have possession of the plant on the said works.

(7) That on January 26, 1907, the plaintiffs through their solicitors sent to the defendants and the defendants received a letter of that date a copy of which is hereunto annexed.—Plaintiffs were informed that the works would be measured up on January 26th in order to ascertain the value of the work already done and that of the work incomplete. Plaintiffs' solicitors replied protesting against the action taken by defendants as being wholly illegal and unjustifiable as they were ready and willing to carry the works to a conclusion and as the time fixed for the completion of the contract had not expired).

(8) That on February 7, 1907—the plaintiffs through their solicitors sent to the defendants and the defendants received the letter of that date, a copy of which is hereunto annexed. (In this letter plaintiffs' solicitors gave notice that as their clients had been improperly ejected from the works at Laichikok and were prevented from carrying out the contract of April 3rd, 1905, they gave notice that such contract was rescinded wholly and entirely, plaintiffs holding defendants liable in damages for breach of the said contract).

The questions for the opinion of the Court are (1) did the said letter of the plaintiffs' solicitors to the defendants of February 7th have the effect of rescinding in any way the contract between plaintiffs and defendants which is referred to in such letter? (2) if the answer to question 1 is in the affirmative, did the said letter have the effect of rescinding the said contract (a) as from the date of such contract or (b) as from February 7th? (3) if the said letter had the effect of rescinding the said contract as from February 7th, are not the rights of the parties to the said contract (as regards all claims of either party against the other in respect of anything which occurred prior to February 7th) governed by all the terms and conditions of the said contract and ought not such rights to be determined in accordance with such terms and conditions? If any, in what respect or respects are the rights of the parties not governed by the terms and conditions of the said contract?

Mr. Slade stated that the plaintiffs had at the request of the defendants set down a special case for trial before his Lordship in the hope that it might lead to a shortening of the litigation. All that his Lordship was asked to do was to give a decision on the questions submitted. When that was given, they hoped the proceedings would simply resolve themselves into a matter of calculation. The action, in which this was a special case, was brought by plaintiffs against defendants for work done. Defendants had applied for a stay of proceedings on the ground that there was a contract between the parties which provided that all differences between the parties should be referred to arbitration. That application was successfully opposed by plaintiffs on the ground that the contract had been annulled. The question was whether the contract had been rescinded, and what was to be the basis of the calculation—whether the basis was to be on the contract or on the merit of the work done.

After hearing argument, his Lordship adjourned the case till to-day.

Wednesday, 24th July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

SPECIAL CASE.

The special case in which Lau Chung Wood and Lam Choy were plaintiffs, and the Standard Oil Company of New York the defendants, was resumed.

Mr. Slade, for the plaintiffs, replying to the arguments of the Hon. Mr. Pollock, submitted that the latter in his argument and in his reliance on the authorities quoted to enforce his argument, persistently overlooked the real terms of the contract between the parties in this case. The essential

terms of the contract were that the defendants would employ the plaintiffs to do certain work and on completion would pay them a certain sum of money, payment for the work to be made by instalments in proportionate amounts as the work progressed. The ultimate sum payable was only to be paid on completion of the work, 80 per cent. on the termination and the remainder when it had received the entire satisfaction of the engineer. Those terms were the only ones in the voluminous contract which were to be performed by the defendants. All the rest of the terms in the contract were obligations which were imposed upon the contractor. Counsel proceeded to argue that if the employer wished to rescind the contract he could only do so in a certain way, that was to say, it must be consequent on a refusal to perform what was reasonable in the opinion of Mr. William Danby, the engineer agreed by both parties whose duty it should be to judge. What the defendants had done was to rescind the contract in a way not authorised under the contract. They had put an end to it on an expression of opinion that the work was not being done in a reasonable manner, not by the engineer who alone was entitled to give that opinion, but by Mr. Thomas. The notice on the part of Mr. Thomas was nothing at all and plaintiffs might have refused to go out and brought an action to restrain plaintiffs from putting them out. However plaintiffs went out but wrote to defendants pointing out that they were acting illegally. Plaintiffs waited till they were turned off before they rescinded the contract. Mr. Pollock's argument resolved itself into two propositions. The first was that rescission could only be done with consent, and the second was that, even if the work was wrongfully taken out of a man's hands as regards all the past events, the contract was still binding, and all the terms of the contract had to be regarded in assessing the damages.

Adjourned.

Thursday, July 25th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Re Li Kwong Hing, Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the debtor and explained that the creditors had passed a resolution to accept a composition of 30 per cent. If that were paid it was unnecessary to have a public examination, and the bankruptcy being annulled there was an end to the whole matter. The money would be paid in about three weeks.

His Honour—I will adjourn the public examination for a fortnight, so that if he does not pay you can go on with it.

The Official Receiver—This resolution does not bind the creditors.

His Honour—It is a question of consent, of course.

ORDER GRANTED.

Re Chun Sui Hon, debtor's petition, Mr. C. F. Dixon, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings appeared for debtor.

You are unable to pay your liabilities in full?—Yes.

Your assets consist of a sum of \$150 which you handed to Messrs. Hastings and Hastings?—Yes.

His Honour—That is not an available asset (Laughter).

Mr. Dixon—Yes.

His Honour—It is yours, of course, (Laughter).

Mr. Dixon—It all goes to the Official Receiver.

You also have a share worth about 800 taels in a goldshop in Canton?—Yes.

You are also a partner in the Tai Chun firm in Wing Lok Street?—Yes.

You estimate your interest in that firm as worth about \$10,000?—Yes.

Your liabilities amount roughly to \$29,000?—Yes.

His Honour—Usual order.

SECURITY RETURNED.

Sir Henry Berkeley made an application for the return of certain deeds lodged two years ago as security for the appearance of debtor in the Wong San Po bankruptcy.

His Honour—Where was it lodged?

Sir Henry—In Court.

His Honour (to Official Receiver)—No objection on your part?

The Official Receiver—I have no objection.

Sir Henry—The Chief Justice told me to repeat the application in Court this morning. The object of the security was that debtor should appear for his public examination, and security was given by two friends, one of whom lodged \$5,000, and the other lodged the title deeds of property in Kowloon. The money had been returned and, as the trustee reported that the presence of the debtor was no longer required, he applied for the return of the title deeds.

His Honour—Granted.

AN ABORTIVE APPLICATION.

When Leung On Po appeared for public examination Mr. Morrell, of Messrs Dennys and Bowley, appeared for debtor.

Mr. B. Harding said he opposed the further examination.

Mr. Morrell retorted that his friend had no *locus standi*. Mr. Looker had appeared before on a similar application.

Mr. Harding was understood to say he represented a certain creditor.

Mr. Morrell replied that Mr. Harding could not represent any creditor. He had tried his hardest at the Magistracy to obtain a conviction against debtor but had failed.

His Honour ruled against Mr. Harding.

Debtor stated that his assets amounted to \$75,687, and his liabilities to \$125,385.

Mr. Harding said he had two actions against the bankrupt, and he wished leave to continue them.

Mr. Morrell—The summons for judgment was dismissed by the Chief Justice.

His Honour—I am not going to do it on a verbal application of this kind. It is four weeks since I sat, and they have had plenty of time.

The Official Receiver—The assets are very small indeed.

His Honour—You have \$75,000.

The Official Receiver—I don't think there will be anything like that. If he is discharged by the Magistrate it is extremely likely—

Mr. Morrell—I don't think he will go away. He is simply being persecuted by his creditors.

His Honour—I don't think there is any reason why I should grant the application.

APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

Re Shan Cheung, an application for discharge, Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for the sole partner, Mr. J. Scott Harston appeared for Messrs Shewan Tomes and Company, and Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the petitioning creditor.

Mr. Goldring said the man had been in gaol since 20th October last year, and at his last appearance in Court the Chief Justice intimated that application should be made for his release. The application was filed. The application for his discharge in bankruptcy would, of course, imply his discharge from Victoria gaol. In fixing conditions he asked his Lordship to consider the fact that the man had served nine months in prison.

His Lordship—He was in for twelve months, wasn't he?

Mr. Goldring—No, he is in till he finds \$5,000.

His Honour—What is he in for now?

Mr. Goldring—They won't let him out (laughter).

The Official Receiver—He was committed till he found \$5,000.

His Honour—And he hasn't found it.

Mr. Harston explained that the debtor had been ordered to find security in the sum of \$5,000 or to be removed in custody. When the debtor came up for public examination it was proved that he had deliberately obtained the sum of \$10,000 worth of goods from Messrs. Shewan Tomes between the 5th June and the 5th August 1906. The writ was issued on the 21st September last year but the debtor hid himself, and it was not till the 26th October that he was arrested under warrant. If his Lordship let the man out he might in the future do well, and he would submit that terms be imposed regarding his future earnings.

His Lordship—I don't think I shall be inclined to exercise the power of imprisonment. My trouble is that, if I discharge the order, the matter is ended. I can suspend the discharge and make an order as to earnings.

Mr. Harston—Would your Lordship postpone it till Monday till we consider it?

His Lordship agreed to this course.

A BANKRUPT AUCTIONEER.

F. Kienz appeared for his public examination. In reply to the Official Receiver he stated that his personal expenditure last year amounted to between \$250 and \$300 a month.

You kept under on account of starting business?—On account of starting business I spent considerably less than I spent before.

You watched your accounts and bank balance carefully?—Yes, as far as possible.

How often did you send your bank book to be made up?—About twice a month.

You said you discovered your insolvency about China New Year?—About that time.

Didn't you know of it before? Didn't you know of it in December or January?—No.

When you received the deposit of \$3,000 from Ho Hang Tong did you believe yourself to be solvent?—Yes.

You admit it was rather a doubtful thing to do to take this money and use it if you had been insolvent?—Most decidedly.

That's your bank pass book?—This is. You see there from 28th December your credit balance was about \$600?—Yes.

On the 29th Ho Hang Tong paid in his deposit?—Yes.

And you immediately paid away \$2,300?—Yes.

Those were old debts?—Some of them; Some for sales that had taken place and the money had not come in.

One was for \$1,500?—Yes.

There was one for \$600?—That was for an auction sale. I paid out the money.

The balance carried forward to the new year was \$1,239.78?—Yes.

Had you many outstanding accounts at that time?—Yes.

You cannot say how much?—No.

Were you pressed for that \$1,500?—No.

You could not have paid that, nor the \$600, if you had not received this?—Oh yes I could have paid the \$600, but not so quickly. The money would come in.

Did you show Ho Hang Tong any account books before you signed an agreement with him?—No.

Did you tell him anything about the amount of business?—I showed him the accounts and sales books.

There was no agreement that you were to use this \$3,000?—It was an understood thing. He was to get \$60 per month and a commission on all business he brought in, and if he desired it he could get repayment by monthly instalments. Then he would drop out of the business.

Debtor was adjudicated bankrupt.

THE E YUEN FIRM.

This bankruptcy again engaged the attention of the Court. One of the partners under examination stated that the firm carried on business as opium and yarn dealers and had been in existence for 30 years. Of the other partners a number were dead and three were in the country. The failure of the firm was due to yarn falling heavily, for in 1905 they lost \$450,000 and last year they lost very heavily.

In answer to Mr. Dixon, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, who appeared for Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Co., Limited, debtor stated he was present at the meeting of creditors and gave Ho Fook a list of names (partners). He did not say that Chan Cheong Shan was a partner, nor did he tell Ho Kom Tong that he suggested to his partners that an additional \$10,000 be put up as capital; in fact, he did not know Ho Kom Tong. He bought certain property in his own name for \$80,000, some of the firm's money being used to pay for it. He did not own any property in Wah On lane, neither did any of his concubines or relatives.

Mr. Morrell asked a question relative to a certain partner.

His Honour—For whom do you appear?

Mr. Morrell—For the petitioning creditor.

Mr. Dixon thereafter applied to his Lordship to make an order calling upon debtor to find security for his appearance at the proceedings then pending. It must be apparent, he urged, from the evidence tendered, that the firm had plunged into various matters altogether outside the scope of their business. He thought that if an order was made other assets would be

divulged which would not be found if debtor was allowed to remain at large, and said that his clients were of opinion that debtor would abscond as soon as the public examination was closed.

Mr. Morrell said the bankruptcy had been going on since last year, when it was upset upon a technicality.

His Honour—What is your object in supporting him?

Mr. Morrell—I am opposing him.

His Honour—You are the petitioning creditor?

Mr. Morrell—On this occasion I am not. I am the debtor (laughter).

Mr. Dixon—Messrs. Dennys and Bowley represented the debtor on the first action.

Mr. Morrell—And now we represent the petitioning creditor.

The matter was adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GOVERNMENT AND SUBSIDIARY COINAGE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—When I last addressed you on this subject I expressed a desire to learn what objections the Government had to prohibiting the circulation of Chinese subsidiary coins in this Colony. The correspondence laid before the Legislative Council on Tuesday furnishes this information. The Government has informed the Secretary of State for the Colonies that though Chinese coins are not legal tender in the Colony, yet to make it punishable by law to possess such coins or to offer and accept payments in such coins would not only fill the jails of the Colony, but would at the same time "deal a serious, if not mortal, blow to the large traffic and petty trade which goes on between Hongkong and Canton." Therefore, "for currency purposes, Hongkong is, and must remain, an integral part of the Chinese Empire."

Notwithstanding this expression of opinion the Government has recently warned the public against accepting Chinese coins at more than their proper value, ten Chinese ten-cent pieces being worth, according to the official notification, only about 89 cents of the Mexican dollar. If the public would, or could, adopt this policy, it would virtually mean prohibition.

Though unwilling to prohibit Chinese coins by law, the Government is yet not unwilling—nay, is anxious—that the public themselves should bring about this prohibition, in spite of the Government's belief that this would deal a serious, if not mortal, blow to the large traffic and petty trade which goes on between Hongkong and Canton.

The Government has either precious little faith in this statement, or it clearly recognises the absolute futility of its "warning," which is offered merely as a sop to Cerberus!

That, for the practical purpose of ousting Chinese coins from the Colony, the "Warning" is futile is too obvious to require comment. Nothing short of a prohibitory order can achieve that result, as the Government plainly recognises. Its shilly-shallying attitude towards such a proposal condemns the Colony's subsidiary coinage to be Chinese coinage. The Government imagines that it will be able "permanently for a period of years" to control the output of the Canton Mints. Most people will regard that as a vain imagining, for the withdrawal of British coin from circulation gradually improves the prospect of profitable minting operations for the Chinese, and it is unlikely, when profits are in sight, that the provincial authorities will be content to forego those profits at the bidding of a foreign Government. The present temporary suspension of minting operations is apparently due not so much to gracious deference to the representations of the Hongkong Government as to the fact that minting is not for the present a paying operation at Canton.

The conclusion of the whole matter seems to be that the Government, by withdrawing from circulation all the subsidiary coin coming into the Colonial Treasury will ultimately lower the discount on these coins, and the Colonial revenue will in time benefit accordingly. But the trading community is condemned to suffer the ills they have. They asked for bread and have been offered a stone!

It has always been open to them to refuse to accept Chinese or Hongkong coins at other than the market value, but it is a vexatious, troublesome and almost impossible business. Though there has been available for circulation in the Colony more than three times the amount of Hongkong subsidiary coins necessary to meet all requirements, yet not one-fifth of the coins in actual circulation are Hongkong coins. For the Government to expect the tram conductor or the ricksha coolie to ask for "another one cent" when tendered a Chinese 10-cent piece in order that he may get the full market value of his legal fare, is ridiculous. So long as there is no embargo on the circulation of Chinese coins in the Colony the probability is that every British coin withdrawn from circulation will be replaced by a Chinese coin, and the losses on trade which the community has had to suffer will have to be endured long after the Government has rehabilitated its own coinage and protected its own revenue.

It seems to me that unless the Government is prepared to prohibit the circulation of Chinese coin in the Colony, it would be useless to accelerate the withdrawal of the Hongkong coinage, while the Government is without a definite assurance that the provincial mints will prolong the suspension of minting operations until discount rates have disappeared and there is absolute need of further issue.—Yours truly,

CHOPPED DOLLAR.

THE SEPTEMBER TYPHOON.

GREENWICH DEFENDS HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

The following despatch from the Secretary of State with regard to the report of the Committee of Inquiry in connection with the typhoon of September 18th was yesterday laid on the table at the Legislative Council meeting:—

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.,
June 12th, 1907.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of April 25th, 14007/1907 relative to the typhoon at Hongkong on the 18th September last, I have to inform you that a review of the evidence placed before the Committee of investigation points to the conclusion that the finding of the Committee was practically inevitable, having regard to the following considerations deduced from the evidence alone, as I have no other knowledge of local conditions.

(1) The typhoon of which warning was given by the Director of Siceawei Observatory on September 15, 1906 was apparently not the one which struck Hongkong on the 18th, and even had it been proved identical, the Siceawei forecast gave no indication that Hongkong was threatened, hence the contention, that the warning was given and ignored, falls to the ground.

(2) The above is, I take it, the main question before the Committee. The further point as to possible delay on the morning of the 18th in hoisting the "black drum" is not of the same importance. The evidence as to typhoon signs at sunset on the 17th is very uncertain and it appears that those relied upon by one side were admittedly invisible at the Observatory, and attention is only directed to events on the 18th. Had the staff of the Hongkong Observatory thought that such a storm was not unlikely it is conceivable that the fall in the barometer might have been noticed earlier, but it does not appear that any such suspicion was justified beforehand and very few minutes elapsed after the barometer indication became unmistakable before the question of hoisting the drum was raised. If it is true that criticism had been frequently made of unnecessary warnings the few minutes (10 to 15) further delay is only to be expected, and beyond that the delay in the actual hoisting appears at present unavoidable though it is likely that some device could be contrived to shorten the time necessary for this operation.

(3) I conclude that there remains no question of dereliction of duty at the Observatory, and that any possible error of judgment alleged is too uncertain to be regarded as carrying responsibility for damage done.

I am, &c.,

W. H. M. CHRISTIE,
Astronomer Royal.

A NIGHT OUT.

[Daily Press, July 22nd.]

Church-going folk who behold two disreputable looking citizens skulking through the city yesterday for some are not to be blamed if they entertained a bad opinion of the pair. They bore all the stigmata of dissipation, the dishevelment and shamefacedness of the Prodigal, and they manifestly knew it. Yet they had been more sinned against than sinful. A man who had prated some days before about the "dozens of four lb. bream" that were to be caught at a certain spot in Hongkong Harbour was really to blame, not they.

They started on Saturday to catch those big bream. They might have taken a steam launch, and saved their reputations at the expense of their pocket money. They might have taken a motor-boat, and been worse off. What they did was to take a sailing boat—and they got back, as I said before, at church time yesterday forenoon.

"The proper way to catch bream is this," said the li—, the gentleman, who indicated the place. "He takes the bait in the side of his mouth only, and goes away some distance to eat it, like a cat with a mouse. Don't strike then. Wait until you feel him begin eating, then haul him up."

Two pairs of guileless ears drank this in. Two pairs of eyes glistened.

"As to bait, if you can't get hairy worms, get prawns." He didn't say what to get if prawns were not procurable, and that explains why one of the men took small cuttlefish. There were no prawns in the market. The "boy" of the other man got some somewhere, but they were odd volumes—early editions. The lady of the house urged an early start. They had taken their bait into the drawing room.

"It's his prawns that you notice," said the *Sepia officinalis* proprietor. "I thought they hummed a bit when he put them in the basket."

"It isn't," retorted the possessor of *Peneus setiferus*. "It's those confounded jelly-fish. No sensible man would expect them to keep in this weather, especially shut up in a cigar box."

This acrimonious beginning had its sequel in the boat. Nervousness as to typhoons was allayed by the absence of cubes on the Observatory signal staff, and it was completely dissipated by the absence of wind an hour after the start. Both were agreed that it was essential they should arrive just at the turn of the tide, when the big bream were most hungry; but they joined issue as to who should do the necessary paddling. One developed a sick feeling in the epigastric region. That trumped the other's sore hand, and he called spades—that is, paddles.

The tide had turned some time when the twain reached the place of big bream. So had the cuttlefish. They were thrown overboard.

An interval of two hours here elapses. Neither had had a bite. There was further argument as to whether the discarded cuttlefish had or had not poisoned all the big bream, thus accounting for their failure to nibble. The man who had thrown the tentacle refuse overboard pooh-poohed the suggestion, but privately had qualms.

Another interval of two hours elapses. Still neither had had a bite. So they hauled in their lines and attacked the sandwiches. "Do your sandwiches taste sort of fishy?" one enquired. He had most carefully washed his hands before eating. "They ought to," granted the other. "They're sardine sandwiches." The other man, relieved, drank the last bottle of beer, looking furtively at his companion to see if he had noticed the emptiness of the basket. He hadn't, but he did later, with some bitterness, the bitterness of the Bitterless. The other man was asleep then,—had been asleep for hours, stretched at full length in the cockpit, his feet considerably incommencing the survivor. He, finding himself unable to sleep, decided to go on fishing. He caught a brown "rock-fish," length 2½ inches, and a large crab, with five-inch pincers, which bit him when he was taking it off the hook, and he smoked about twenty pipes of tobacco. Then he went to get a bottle of beer. He felt more kindly disposed to his wearied friend. "Poor old chap! Perhaps he really was a bit

sick. I'll not wake him." And he groped for the beer. He even managed to suppress a noisy outburst when he knelt on a parcel of spare hooks. The lamp had gone out, for lack of oil. But the stars were shining in a clear sky, the sea was calm, and "the moon on the water was dimmed by a ripple, affording a chequered delight." "Die Lichten auf dem Wasser," he murmured appreciatively, and then added, in something more than a murmur "damit."

[This is not a swear-word, Mr. Editor. It is the proper ending of the German quotation, and means only "therewith."] It was, perhaps, a fortuitous coincidence, for he just then discovered that there was no more beer. He awoke his friend.

"What have you done with all the beer?" he demanded.

"No thanks, old chap; had enough," the other drowsed out, and straightway fell on sleep again.

Several more hours elapsed, and the antennae of the dawn-butterfly waved above the horizon. Presently the gorgeous wings outspread, and the diaphanous fritillary—well, I'm sorry, Mr. Editor, to breakdown with such a brand-new and promising bit of imagery; but anyway, the sun rose. So did the sleeper. "Might as well have another cast or two," he remarked cheerily, as the other, now overcome by sleep, took his place.

"They are n't four-lb. bream, old chap, but anyway, they were better than nothing," said the angler, when the other awoke. He exhibited about twenty beautiful little silvery fish, like sardines, but plumper. "Now let's have a dip, and go home."

Both felt better for the swim, and hoisted sail in complete amity half an hour later. During the long, slow drift home, with only brief and irritating cat's-paws of wind to waft them, the hot sun blazed on both, causing sunburns and a great thirst. Unkind words that to-day will doubtless be regretted were spoken, and when later, dressed and shaved, they met in the Hotel, and heard that a man had been murdered, both together eagerly enquired:

"Was it——?"

"No. It was a Chinaman. Why do you ask such a queer question?" their informant asked.

It seems an almost unbelievable coincidence, Mr. Editor, but I am able to assure you that the name they both named, in that queer question, was the name of the man who had told them where to catch four-lb. bream. I would not like to say that the answer disappointed them, but they looked as if it had.

KULANGSU (AMOI) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of Council held at the Board Room, on 2nd July 1907.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, Huang Ts'an-chew, W. Kruse, S. Okayama, W. Wilson, the Health Officer, and the Secretary.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting are read, and confirmed.

2. A letter is from the General Officer Commanding at Hongkong, concerning the issue to the Council of rifles on loan for the proposed Home Guard and it is unanimously decided to inform General Broadwood that the Council gladly accept the offer of the War Office.

3. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Breach of Municipal Regulations 1, Debt 2, Illegally removing land marks 1, Refusing to quit premises 1, Breach of contract 1.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Being a rogue and a vagabond 1, Committing a nuisance 1, Being abroad after 12 midnight without a light 3, Carrying a dagger 1, Burying a body without a permit 1, Removing sand from a public road 1, Contempt of Court 1, Breach of prison regulation 1, Theft 3.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE,
Chairman.

By order,
C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,
Secretary.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 17th July, 1907.—Business reported since the 10th inst., is as under:—

	1907.	1906.
Settlements	47,738	16,657

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 18th July, 1906.

	1907.	1906.
HANKOW TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements	411,187	324,266
Stock	18,023	70,739
Arrivals	429,210	395,005
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements	175,646	153,279
Stock	16,771	14,353
Arrivals	192,417	167,632

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, July 25th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$820	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$860	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$890	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$920	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$600	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$650	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$820	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	—	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$815	to	—	do.
Benares Old	—	to	—	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 25th July, state that 25 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 83,300 tons of coal. Since July 12th, 15 steamers have arrived with a total of 45,650 tons of coal. It also reports:—Cardiff Coal neglected. Australian, small business at quotations. 10,000 tons Japanese reported sold on private terms. Other kinds neglected. Market generally quiet.

Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$14.00 to 15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$11.50 to \$12.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 nominal
Mitki Lump	\$10.00 nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$7.50 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$7.75 to \$8.00 steady.
Labuan Lump	\$8.00 nominal.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong, 26th July, states:—A further improvement of \$1 to \$4 has been established in our yarn market, and holders, strengthened by telegraphic advices from Bombay and decreasing stocks here, are still asking an advance for the few bales of desirable spinnings remaining in stock. Business reported during the interval has again been large, but confined, as usual, principally to favourite tickets of No. 10s which form the bulk of the settlements. At the close holders having somewhat eased their stocks are less eager to sell whilst buyers, having picked up the most desirable parcels, are indifferent, and a temporary lull is for the moment being experienced. With small receipts and larger off-takes stocks continue to decrease and are now well in hand. Market closes steady.

The most salient feature of the fortnight is the report of a re-sale in Shanghai of about 3,000 bales of best grades of No. 10s to some Bombay operators. What with European buyers in the Bombay bazar and Bombay speculators in the China markets, we appear to be on the eve of a great movement in the trade which, while it will make India to a certain extent independent of Chinese buyers, will it is to be hoped enable Indian spinners to capture some of the Continental markets as effectually as they have already done those of East Africa, Arabia and the Levant during the last few years.

Sales of the interval aggregate 8,273 bales, arrivals amount to 5,518, unsold stock estimated at 37,000 and sold but uncleared stock in second hands 35,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—Sales of 400 bales No. 10s at \$86 are reported.

Japanese Yarn:—A quiet but steady business continues in these threads, and 535 bales have changed hands during the interval, say 50 bales No. 16s at \$120 to \$121, and 570 bales No. 20s at \$121 to \$131.

Raw Cotton:—There is very little change in the continued quietness of this article and only small parcels of Indian descriptions in retail lots, aggregating 150 bales, have found buyers at \$17½ to \$20½. Nothing doing in China kinds. Stocks 2,560 bales Indian, and 470 bales China. Quotations are Indian \$16 to \$20, and Chinese \$21 to \$25.

Exchange on India has ruled steady and shows a small advance, closing firm to-day at Rs. 165½ for T/T and Rs. 165½ for Post. On Shanghai 72½ and on Japan 108½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 20th instant viz:—

Indian:—Total sales about 7,000 bales, prices showing an advance of 2 to 3 Taels, market closing quiet but firm. Estimated unsold stocks in first and second hands about 140,000 bales.

Japanese:—Market steady, total sales about 1,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 36 to 91 for No. 16s, and Tls. 89 to 97½ for No. 20s.

Local:—There has been some movement in these threads and about 1,100 bales No. 16s are reported to have changed hands at Tls. 82 to 83½.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 18th July, 1907, states:—From what we have been able to gather from the principal import houses, although the week under review has not shown any great expansion so far as fresh business in concerned, the feeling continues very strong, and the satisfactory extent of the clearances is a practical demonstration of it. This is felt to be the more so because the weather has not been very propitious. Having set the ball rolling by selling moderate quantities from stock at tempting prices, which were snapped up with some avidity, holders of stock are asking an advance, feeling they are justified in doing so by the conditions of the home markets. Pending responses from the country markets, however, dealers here are afraid to cut prices, plainly showing the different spirit in which the trade is now conducted by the native middle-man. The absence of news from Mowchwang with regard to recent shipments from here was puzzling, but it must not be forgotten there was a certain amount of cargo already there on storage, and that would have to be worked off first probably, but at the close favourable advices have been received. There is not much fresh news to report about Manchuria. Everything appears to be going on in a satisfactory manner, and it seems to be the determination to develop the province with all possible speed. Satisfactory arrangements have been made to meet the necessary expenses, and all the officials are working with a will, egged on by the certainty, no doubt, that any laxity would be made an excuse by Japan to step in again. Two Custom houses have been opened on the Russian frontier. The news from Corea is not so satisfactory. Somewhat of a panic has been caused by the action of the Banks, it is said, in calling up loans in a summary manner. As these Banks are all under the control of Japan there is a shrewd suspicion that the movement is instigated to embarrass foreign trade, which was coming to the fore again. In spite of the disabilities under which Tientsin is said to be suffering, owing to the drought, she continues to be our second best customer. During the interval her merchants have bought from second hand holders here 2,000 bales 3-yard American Sheetings at Tls. 3.75 for the better known cloths and Tls. 3.75 for others. There are persistent rumours that a large line of Pepperell Drills had been bought from stock, the price being variously quoted as Tls. 4.50 net up to Tls. 4.80, less 1 per cent. Others say even the latter figure is too low. It is certain business has gone through from first hands, but it is not given out yet. Telegraphic news from Manchester is still very strong, the leading manufacturers being well engaged forward quote prices 9d. to 10d. per piece over current rates here. There is a scarcity of Yarn, spinners finding it more profitable to sell to the Continent than to the home weavers. Telegrams are not in to-day, but the quotation received yesterday as the Liverpool price of Mid. American was 7.09d for spot, and 6.76d. for "futures". Egyptian continues to advance and is now quoted 10 15/16d. The export of Plain Cottons for the first half of this month was 11 million yards. The latest telegram from New York reports the market as advancing, with eager buyers. Sales have been made to the Home trade for late Spring delivery, 1908. Southern 3-yard Sheetings are selling on the basis of 12s 3¼d c. i. f. Shanghai. This at 3-0 exchange is the equivalent of about Tls. 4.40 as against a present value here of Tls. 3.85. It is reported that upwards of 2,000

bales 3.50 yard Coarse Yarn Sheetings are being shipped to Aden. They are going in three Shipments to New York while freight has been engaged for some 2,000 bales more in a steamer leaving in a few days time. The Yarn Market has not shown much activity, holders being very firm in consequence of the rise of about 10 per cent. in Bombay. Native speculators, however, have taken advantage of the advance to sell some of their holdings and have in a great measure met the demand this week. Prices in Bombay went up seventeen rupees, but are easier at the close. Japan Yarn is firmly held but does not show much change in price. Local Yarns are a little firmer in consequence of the drastic measures that are being taken by the Mills to curtail the supply. Stocks.—Unfortunately the Chamber of Commerce Returns are still being delayed by quite a number of firms not sending in their returns. It would greatly facilitate matters, in the event of a firm not holding any stock, if the Form were sent back blank, but signed. Many firms would no doubt like to be able to do that.

Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai, July 19th, 1907, has the following:—The steady improvement in our market conditions has continued, and clearances have been upon an active scale, though somewhat hampered by the wet weather. Rain still continues at intervals throughout the Valley, and it is reported from Hankow that the water in the Han river is very high and that floods are feared, this having caused a certain amount of cessation of buying by Hankow dealers, who during the early part of the week were active purchasers. A repetition now of last year's floods would be most discouraging at a period when the effects of these disasters upon our market have barely been shaken off, and the weather chart is accordingly watched with a certain amount of nervous interest by dealers in general. From Tientsin it is reported that the country is still suffering from lack of rain, and the market is dull and dragging, while native advices from Newchwang report that although demand is somewhat slow at present, there are indications that business will show considerable improvement in the near future. As regards replacing purchases, our market and Manchester are still widely apart, and although manufacturers are in some instances beginning to want business, the spinners have got the whip hand as regards prices at which these can be booked. American advices continue to report a very strong situation, and there is now not the slightest prospect of any fresh supplies coming to this market this year, by which time the stock of sheetings here will be about down to bed-rock if clearances continue normal, while in Drills, the short supply has already commenced to be filled by sales from Japan of low and medium qualities, of which some three to four thousand bales have this week been settled. The new outlet for Bombay yarns, which has been discovered in Lancashire and the European continent, has caused values in Bombay to soar far above the level at present ruling here, and has resulted in reselling and reshipping back to Bombay from this market, which business is likely to increase if values here do not quickly recover to an adequate level.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 17th July, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 34.50
Do. Seconds	31.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	22.75
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	9.75
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	8.00
Green China Grass, Szachuen	—
Jute	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.00
Animal Tallow	11.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	14.80
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Turmeric	—
Sesamum Seed	5.20
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	9.30
Tea Oil	—

Per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, sailed on 23rd July. For Marseilles:—547 bales raw silk, 200 bales waste silk, 402 bales pierced cocoons, 6 cases silk piece goods, 21 packages human hair, 5 cases feathers, 14 bales canes, 6 cases ilang ilang oil, 25 cases hats, 1 case cigars, 1 case porcelain, 1 case opium, 8 cases furniture, 1 case linen. For Lyons:—640 bales raw silk. For Milan:—40 bales raw silk. For Barcelona:—5 bales raw silk, 76 packages tea. For London:—175 bales waste silk.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated July 18th, 1907, has the following:—There is no change to report in our Homeward freight market since last writing, and outside of tea there is very little cargo to go forward in any direction. Coastwise.—Here also there is very little doing and that only at "starvation" rates; although there is not much "loose" tonnage seeking employment there is no demand, and no cargo offering which cannot be carried with ease by the regular liners.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th July, 1907.—Business has been very restricted during the past week, and rates with few exceptions are without improvement. Exchange on London closes at 2/2½ T.T. and on Shanghai at 72½ T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have again been booked at \$685 old ex new, and more shares are procurable. There is no change in the new issue, which remains at \$522½ sellers. London is slightly firmer at £80. 10s. 0d. for the old ex new, but there is no change in other quotations. Nationals are still quoted at \$51 but no business has transpired.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at the improved rate of \$775, at which the market closes firm. North China, after further sales at Tls. 73½, have been booked at Tls. 74½ and Tls. 75, and are still in request. Cantons and China Traders continue to be enquired for at quotations, but Yangtszes have eased off, and are offering at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are still in the market at \$320, and Chinas are quiet at \$88.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are easier with sellers at \$29½. Indos, ex the dividend of 2½ per cent. = 5s. per old share received from London to-day, are new quoted at \$39½ for the 6 per cent. Cumulative Preferred Ordinary, and \$28½ for the Deferred Ordinary. Star Ferries are quieter at \$25 and \$14 for the old and new issues respectively, with sellers of both. Douglases are still in request at \$41, and Shell Transports at the improved rate of 46/6, after sales at that figure.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked in small lots at \$98 and \$99, but have since hardened, and can now be placed at \$102. Luzons are unchanged with sellers at \$21.

MINING.—Raub's have declined to \$6 sellers. Charbonnages are unchanged and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are firmer with buyers at \$102. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves, after small sales at \$78, are easier with sellers at \$77. This Company has declared an interim dividend of \$2 per share payable on the 31st instant. New Amoy Docks are procurable at \$11½, Shanghai Docks have improved to Tls. 76½ with buyers, and Hongkew Wharves to Tls. 227.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$103 and \$102 cum dividend, and at \$98½ ex dividend, but close firmer with probable buyers at \$100 ex the interim dividend of \$3½ per share paid yesterday. Kowloon Lands have sellers at \$37, and Humphreys Estates at \$10½. Hongkong Hotels continue on offer at \$118.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons have been sold at \$11, and there are further sellers at the rate. Our quotations for the northern stocks are taken from Shanghai exchanges.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been booked at \$9½ and \$4.35, and close in further request. China Providents are easier with sales and further sellers at \$8.90. Green Island Cements are procurable at \$16½, cum new issue, and Electrics at \$14½. Union Water Boats have sellers at \$12½, after sales at \$12½. Ices can be obtained at \$245 cum the interim dividend of \$4 per share payable on application on the 2nd prox.

Quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$685, x.n.i. sal. sel. \$522½, n. i. sel. (£15 p'd up) Ln. £80.10 x.n.i. Ln. £80, n. i. (£15, paid up)
National B. of China	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$6½, x.d.
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$91, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$54, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$890, sales & sel.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 64½
Hongkong	\$10	11, sales & sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 92½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 320
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$77, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$102, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$11½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 76½, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 227
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$17½, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$16½, c.n.i. sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$245
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$22½, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$270, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$88, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 75, buyers
Union	\$100	\$775, sales
Yangtsze	\$60	\$180, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$100, x.d. sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 100
West Point Building	\$50	\$50
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Tls. 250	\$480, buyers
Raub's	18/10	\$6, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	10½, x. new
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$1½, (new) sel
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$100, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	29½, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	25	39½, x.d. Pref. \$28½, De f.
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$6 6, sales & buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$14
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$21
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, buyers
Do. Founders	\$0	\$150
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending July 18th, 1907, states:—The last week has been a busy one and large parcels of Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Shares have changed hands, both for cash and time. Rates all round have been well maintained and business on the whole has been more satisfactory than of late. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 3/0. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. The new shares have been dealt in at \$510 and rates at closing are \$685 for the old and \$510 for the new with buyers. Insurance.—North China Insurances

have been placed at Tls. 72½. Yangtsze Insurance Shares have been dealt in at \$180 for cash. Shipping.—Indo-China S.N. Co. There is nothing reported, and rates remain at Tls. 39 for the preference and Tls. 22 for the deferred. We believe that the combined shares could be placed at these rates; business in this Stock is at a standstill. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Some small lots of ordinary shares changed hands at Tls. 46; the market closes with buyers at Tls. 47, and preference shares remain at Tls. 50. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. The market opened at Tls. 76 for July and December, but after the declaration of the dividend of Tls. 3 a gradual decline set in and at the close we quote buyers at Tls. 74 for July, and sellers at Tls. 75 for December. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. A large business has been done in this Stock since our last. On the 11th the market opened with sales at Tls. 224 July, and Tls. 228½ for September, at which rate a considerable quantity of shares changed hands. On the 15th sales were reported at Tls. 224 July and Tls. 228 for September, and on the following day for cash Tls. 224½ was paid and Tls. 225 for July: the forward market still remaining at Tls. 228 for September. Business was also done at Tls. 230 for October. At the close there are buyers at Tls. 224 for cash and the market is steady. Sugars.—Perak Sugars. Shares have been placed at Tls. 87½ for cash and close firm. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. There is no business reported this week. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. The rate at closing remains at Tls. 101 nominal. A sale is reported of Anglo-French Lands at Tls. 102½. Industrial.—There has been an active market in all Cotton Stocks. Ewo Cottons closed with buyers at Tls. 64½ cash and Tls. 67½ September. Internationals. There have been buyers in the market all the week. The cash rate is now Tls. 52 buyers and for December Tls. 54½ cash and Tls. 55 have been done. Laou Kung Mows. There is a scarcity of cash shares. We quote Tls. 87½ as the prevailing rate. For September Tls. 92½ was done early in the week to be followed by sales at Tls. 95, at which rate there are buyers at closing. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Some shares changed hands in the early part of the week at Tls. 290 cash and Tls. 307½ for September. The market quickly hardened, however, to Tls. 293½ for July closing with sales at Tls. 295. For December there are buyers at Tls. 307½. Shanghai Sumatras. The price of Tls. 117½ for cash is maintained. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz. Shares have been placed at \$21½. S. Montrio & Co. There are sellers at \$46. Shanghai Horse Bazaars. Shares are on the market at Tls. 42½. Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Shares are on offer at Tls. 54. A sale of Dallas Horse Repository shares is reported at Tls. 25.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, July 26th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	279
Credits 4 months' sight	284
ON GERMANY.—On demand	227
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	51
Credits, 60 days' sight	55
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	165½
Bank, on demand	165½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	165½
Bank, on demand	165½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	108½
ON MANILA.—On demand	108½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	5½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	133½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	67½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.00
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$47.80
BAR SILVER, per oz	31½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$8.72 discount.
"	10 " "	9.55 "
Hongkong	20 " "	8.15 "
"	10 " "	8.30 "

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—

ARRIVALS.

- 21, *Amiral Olry*, French str., from Anvers.
 21, *Amoy*, German str., from Haiphong.
 21, *Arratoon Apear*, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 21, *Ernest Simons*, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
 21, *Saxonia*, German str., from Singapore.
 22, *Coquet*, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 22, *Empire*, British str., from Kobe.
 22, *Glenfalloch*, British str., from Singapore.
 22, *Gregory Apear*, Br. str., from Yokohama.
 22, *Hanoi*, French str., from Haiphong.
 22, *Kiang Ching*, Chi. str., from Chinkiang.
 22, *Knivesberg*, German str., from Macao.
 22, *Lightning*, British str., from Calcutta.
 22, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 22, *Rubi*, British str., from Manila.
 22, *Salazie*, French str., from Marseilles.
 22, *Sexta*, German str., from Sourabaya.
 22, *Shaohsing*, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, *Spesia*, German str., from Yokohama.
 22, *Wakasa Maru*, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 22, *Yuensang*, British str., from Manila.
 23, *Bendleuch*, British str., from Singapore.
 23, *Chowfa*, German str., from Bangkok.
 23, *Haimun*, British str., from Swatow.
 23, *Minnesota*, American str., from Seattle.
 23, *S. v. Koetier*, Dutch str., from Borneo.
 24, *Ghazee*, British str., from Singapore.
 24, *Hellas*, German str., from Wakamatsu.
 24, *Joshin Maru*, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 24, *Kawachi Maru*, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 24, *Linan*, British str., from Swatow.
 24, *Monmouthshire*, Fr. str., from Singapore.
 24, *Priam*, British str., from Liverpool.
 24, *Taishun*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 24, *Tjibodas*, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 25, *Arcadia*, British str., from Bombay.
 25, *C. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 25, *Chihli*, British str., from Haiphong.
 25, *Delta*, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, *Loyal*, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, *Monteagle*, British str., from Vancouver.
 25, *Prinz Waldemar*, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 25, *Taishan*, British str., from Saigon.

July—

DEPARTURES.

- 22, *Chipehing*, British str., for Swatow.
 22, *J. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 22, *Progress*, German str., for Saigon.
 22, *Salazie*, French str., for Shanghai.
 23, *Amigo*, German str., for Haiphong.
 23, *Amiral Olry*, French str., for Shanghai.
 23, *Austria*, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 23, *Choyang*, British str., for Swatow.
 23, *Derwent*, British str., for Saigon.
 23, *Ernest Simons*, Fr. str., for Europe, &c.
 23, *Glenloch*, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, *Kaga Maru*, Jap. str., for Seattle, &c.
 23, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23, *Nichibei Maru*, Japanese str., for Moji.
 23, *Saxonia*, German str., for Shanghai.
 23, *Singan*, British str., for Hoihow.
 23, *Sungkiang*, British str., for Cebu.
 23, *Teau*, British str., for Manila.
 24, *Arratoon Apear*, Br. str., for Shanghai.
 24, *Bendleuch*, British str., for Nagasaki.
 24, *Fukushu Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 24, *Knivesberg*, German str., for K. C. Wan.
 24, *Phranang*, German str., for Swatow.
 24, *Spesia*, German str., for Singapore.
 24, *S. v. Koetier*, Dutch str., for Balik Papan.
 24, *Ujina Maru*, Japanese str., for Sourabaya.
 24, *Wakasa Maru*, Japanese str., for London.
 25, *Glenfalloch*, British str., for Amoy.
 25, *Hanoi*, French str., for Haiphong.
 25, *Woolwich*, British str., for Kobe.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, Mr. James Boyd.

Per *Saxonia*, from Singapore, Capt. Engelhardt.

Per *Shaohsing*, from Shanghai, &c. Mr. J. S. Tonkin.

Per *Arratoon Apear*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. J. W. Watts.

Per *Chowfa*, from Bangkok, Messrs. Bright and de Vries.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Lindsey, Mrs. F. M. Souza, Capt. J. S. Manning, Capt. W. Green, Messrs. P. L. Reed, C. M. Jenkins, B. W. Rodgers, A. Wall, Morgan, C. Esdale, D. C. Alexander, and S. Kawashima.

Per *Minnesota*, from Seattle via Ports, Mr. Mrs. and Miss C. F. McWilliams, Mr. and Mrs. C. King and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. Po, Mrs. Lewis and child, Mrs. S. E. Jennings, Mrs. H. Mathia, Mrs. Sanhorn, Miss L. Hu, Miss L. Hori, Miss E. Adle, Miss C. S. Ober, Miss Penfield, Miss H. Clerland, Miss H. Gaches, Miss V. Leeman, Miss M. L. Haussee, Miss E. Nordhoff, Miss Greenlee, Messrs. T. Muller, R. Buck, F. Lawrence, A. Muller, A. Fisher, J. J. Hanty, J. C. Chouga, E. Edger, E. A. Filene, A. M. Silver and P. Zumpa.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. C. M. Keay, H. F. Foozd, F. H. and J. de Laraxaal; from Port Said, Miss Foozd, from Singapore, Miss Tolguhome; from Saigon, Misses Parry, Thiessen, Messrs. Leoni, Carpentier, Huet; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. & Mrs. Didier, Mrs. Heapel, Mrs. Palmier, Mrs. Freiche, Miss Poncin, Miss Fabre, Messrs. Tambrun, Pannetier, Rozier, Hoel Aussouard, L. Mourat, Delord, Renaudt, Frall, Maubian and Piton; from Colombo, Miss Okolot; from Singapore, Syed a Cin Akagott, Mr. Dollonoy; from Saigon, Miss Tardé D'Ambert, Miss C. Plozance, and Mad. Green; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Miss Funck, Miss Kushizaki; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Tatematsu and infant, and Miss Gomi; for Yokohama, from Colombo, Mr. Spencer, Miss Budisobusky; from Saigon, Miss Govin.

Per *Ernest Simons*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. and Miss Smith, Miss Robertson, Miss Gibney, Miss Beg, Messrs. Sydney McMichael, Pely, R. P. Mounier, Chopard, Zobel, J. Monveagudo, Rabatosh (2), F. and L. Lopez; for Singapore, Messrs. D. Martuno, Muttal Ting, Dargumal, Marinsing and Zsisher Ting; for Colombo, Mr. Jamsed P. Khara; for Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Delbourgs and 4 infants; for Marseilles, Messrs. J. Dempster, Bouis, Bano, R. P. Lamah, A. Womkler, Meunier, Boulier, Betton, G. Welburn, Le Vay, Maké, Delaballe, Ricordel, Bonain, Hodnee, Courtois and Polk; from Kobe, for Colombo, Mr. Gheesta; for Marseilles, Mr. L. Joseph; from Yokohama, for Colombo, Mr. D. H. Cooper; for Marseilles, Messrs. G. Walker, Bing, Rothwell, Macdonall and Cox.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, from Yokohama, &c., for Hongkong, Dr. J. W. Hartley, Lieut. Stainton, Capt. Butcher, Messrs. Y. Watanabe, R. Makabaya, K. Kagiya, W. E. Molle, R. Sturt, P. Tettamanzi and M. Nakatani; for Singapore, Mrs. T. Ochiai, Miss M. Haruta, Messrs. K. Okumiya, N. Sakabe, G. Matsunobe, G. Knowles, P. Fraser, J. Kaka, M. Sugaya and T. Akuda; for Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Nemura and child; for Colombo, Messrs. Y. Yoshikawa, B. I. Karumbra and Fujiaki; for Marseilles, Miss Anna Schaefer, Messrs. M. Sato, S. Hada and K. Ikeguchi; for London, Mr. C. Ariyoshi; for Marseilles and London, Messrs. M. Marita, H. Kuru, S. Hatana, N. Kato and H. Sudbury.

Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Peters, and Capt. Truan.

Per *Gregory Apear*, from Yokohama, Mr. & Mrs. J. Gregory.

Per *Monmouthshire*, from Singapore, Misses Holdens (2), and Mr. Tate.

Per *Empire*, from Kobe, Mr. Mrs. and Master Sargent, Mr. von Zuylen, Miss Morris, Miss MacKintosh, The Hon. Miss V. Greville.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, from Australia, &c., Senator, Mrs. and Miss Stone, Senator and Mrs. Tomme, Messrs. A. Werner, C. Horn, M. R. Bounne, A. M. True, R. Horne, A. D. Price, Schaper, Adelman, Paul Floer and R. Rosenstock.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Lieut. R. S. Lucy, Messrs. J. B. Peterson, Y. Yamakami and Y. Yoshia; for Kobe, Messrs. Davroye, U. Sakai & S. Harima; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Roessler, Baron G. de Maer, Messrs. R. Mann, S. Ishikawa, G. Agata, S. Miyata and K. P. Horiba.

Per *Monteagle*, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Mrs. L. Davies, Miss Anderson, Miss M. Suter, Dr. J. Hall, Messrs. Hodson, Fitz Henry and Moore; from Yokohama, Rev. A. Stevens, and Mr. F. Storey; from Kobe, Lieut. Bramble, R.M.L.I.; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Peck, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Grigg, and Mr. G. Guild.

Per *Delta*, from Shanghai, for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Ede, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Messer, Messrs. J. M. T. Adivala, H. S. Young, H. Case, H. Pearce, S. J. Chinchon, W. G. Tolchard, Burke, F. C. Roberts, G. Marshall, H. Humphreys, H. Dufour, B. Blumanthal and McElroy.

Per *Arcadia*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. K. Counsell, Mrs. Duncans and amah, Miss Debenham, Engr. Lt. Evison, and Mr. J. K. Taggart; from Marseilles, Messrs. H. Fitzgerald and D. Hooper; from Bombay, Miss McEwan; from Penang, Rev. J. Etcheberry, G. Saffroy, T. Louison, E. Raymond, J. Gregoire and H. Souvey; from Singapore, Dr. Drummond, and Mr. R. D. Paul; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. Thomas, Miss McMillan, and Mr. L. T. Magnés; from Largo Bay, Messrs. W. Morrison and H. Fraeser; from Bombay, Miss Ogilvy, Messrs. F. Bomanjee, W. Nayaker, A. De Souza and D. Dinshaw; from Colombo, Mr. J. M. Massen; from Penang, Revs. D. Polly, J. Jangey, L. Laorois, A. Tondio, E. Gaspair, C. Cesselin, A. Besombir, F. Gore, A. Favand and Harostegay, Mr. J. De snick; from Singapore, Mr. A. J. Harrison, and Madame Lie and maid; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. Willson; from Brindisi, Mr. Drenokhahu.

DEPARTED.

Per *Kaga Maru*, from Hongkong, for Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Moody, Mr. and Mrs. Jaffry, Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez, Misses Allward, Rutherford, M. Williams and Q. Jones, Messrs. L. M. Shearer, H. W. Van Dyke, S. Oghi and T. Ito.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, from Hongkong, for London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Nemara and child, Mrs. T. Ochiai, Misses Anna Schaefer and M. Haruta, Messrs. K. Okumiya, N. Sakabe, G. Matsunobe, G. Knowles, P. Fraser, J. Kaka, Y. Yoshikawa, M. Sato, S. Hada, K. Ikeguchi, C. Ariyoshi, M. Sugaya, T. Akuda, B. J. Karumbra, Fujisaki, M. Marita, H. Kuru, S. Hatun, N. Kato and H. Sudburg.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALL, for the Concerns, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.